

Exploring the Emerald Isle An IAPAL Alumni Project

If you haven't been to Ireland, you haven't seen green! Referred to as The Emerald Isle because its lush, vibrant green landscape resembles the precious green gemstone. Aside from the natural charm of the people, Ireland and Northern Ireland are uniquely beautiful – lush pastures, rugged mountains, soaring cliffs and iconic history all combine in this special tour. Tailored to IAPAL alumni, escorted by Tour Leader Marie Hvidsten, our itinerary is based on multiple successful study and leadership tours, combining agriculture with history and the “most requested” sites. Strictly limited, this tour showcases an overview of the Emerald Isle and a must do for those who have been, and not been, to Ireland.

Sunday, October 10, 2027 Dublin (Reception / D)
Independent arrivals in Dublin Airport. We have included return Dublin Express bus tickets in your package (see notes on included features) – gratuities at individual discretion.
This evening, join Tour Leader Marie Hvidsten and enjoy a welcome “meet and greet” reception and dinner at our hotel
Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane, Dublin city centre

Monday, October 11, 2027 Dublin / Tipperary / Cork (B / - / D)
Meet our Coach and Driver - Irish Tour Manager for the duration of the tour.
Depart for Cork. On the way, we stop for a visit of the Rock of Cashel. Nothing can quite beat the spectacle of the iconic Rock of Cashel rising above County Tipperary's Golden Vale like a fairytale castle. Silhouetted against the sky and overlooking the lush green fields of the surrounding landscape, it boasts more than 1,000 years of history at the heart of Ireland's Ancient East. According to legend, the rock – a craggy limestone outcrop – was dropped here by the devil, but today it is home to one of the most impressive and important collections of medieval buildings in Europe.
We then continue to visit a sheep farm - Dualla House Sheep Farm, Cashel, Tipperary - Dualla House dates to 1798. The farm is 300 acres in size comprising two blocks of land. On the home farm of 236 acres keep 700 ewes and 180 ewe lamb replacements. Additionally, 42 acres of cereals mainly Spring or Winter Barley. On outside farm of 64 acres a neighbour dairy farmer, leases this land long term. Here our group will learn about farming sheep and how a working sheep farm operates from the breeding season in October to lambing in mid March.
We continue to arrive in Cork and check in to our central hotel.
Dinner and overnight at Maldron Hotel Shandon Cork City

Tuesday, October 12, 2027 Cork (B / L / -)
Breakfast at the hotel and departure for a farm visit - Tim O'Leary Dairy Farm Cork. This farmer is the former Vice-President of the Irish Farmers Association. Herd size: 245 Dairy cows (Holstein Friesian and cross breed), 18 Bulls, All Heifers have been crossed to Jerseys.
Yield per cow: 5154 liters per cow
All male calves sold at 6 weeks
Spring Milk producer
We continue our tour with a visit to the famous Blarney Castle, a 600-year-old castle built by one of Ireland's most powerful ever chieftains, Cormac MacCarthy. Uncover the dungeon, the banqueting hall, the chapel and more inside the imposing fortress, before climbing to the top of the tower for a

date with the Blarney Stone. Legends of the stone's origin vary, from the Crusades to the Queen of the Fairies in south Munster. Kiss it, and it's believed you grow more eloquent.

After the Castle we can visit the Blarney Woollen Mills Store

Lunch voucher for self service restaurant at Blarney Woollen Mills

This afternoon, we visit Jameson Midleton Distillery Experience – guided visit and tasting! Tour the old distillery where we will see the machinery and manual tools used in the past. There is also a giant waterwheel which once powered all the machinery and still turns today. Our distillery guide will explain the process of distilling whiskey and will show us the largest pot still in the world. The tour ends in the Jameson bar where there will be a tasting and drinking of Whiskey.

Return to Cork for overnight.

Wednesday, October 13, 2027

Cork / Kerry

(B / - / D)

Breakfast at our hotel and depart for Killarney. On the way we will visit Glen South Farm - Aine McSweeney is now the 4th generation farming Glen South. Committed to producing the highest quality beef. Everything is focused on the wellbeing and welfare of animals and controlling the impact on the environment. Their relaxed cattle have fresh food as required with an "a la carte" nutrition menu. Glen South meat carries full Bord Bia Quality Assurance. What makes Glen South Farm different is the foresight and confidence for the farm's future and that of the Irish beef industry. The farm is currently home to a herd of 340 top quality heifers with a plan to increase to 1000 at full capacity. Taking an innovative step into the future, in January 2014 a Lely Vector automatic feeding system was installed at Glen South Farm - the first of its kind for beef cattle in Europe, in conjunction with a state-of-the-art handling system. Efficient beef production largely depends on feeding the herd consistently, timely and sufficiently. The assistance of the Vector delivers on all of the above. The consistent availability of fresh feed at the fence increases feed intake, growth rate and ensures a dependable quality and live weight gain.

We then continue to Killarney.

Dinner and overnight at The Dromhall Hotel

Thursday, October 14, 2027

Kerry

(B / L / -)

Breakfast at our hotel and a full day tour of the Ring of Kerry via Killorglin, Glenbeigh, Cahersiveen, Waterville, Coomakesta Pass with its magnificent views over Derrynane, home of Daniel O'Connell, known as "The Liberator" to Caherdaniel. Travel on via Sneem, Moll's Gap, Ladies View, Killarney National Park and along the Lakes of Killarney.

While on our tour we visit the Kerry Woollen Mills - Kerry Woollen Mills are one of the last remaining traditional wool mills still manufacturing in County Kerry. The company was founded over 300 years ago. The mill's machinery was originally driven by the River Gweestin, and its water was also used for washing and dyeing the wool.

Group lunch on the Ring of Kerry during our tour

Late afternoon return to Killarney for an open evening.

Overnight in Killarney

Friday, October 15, 2027

Kerry / Clare / Galway

(B / - / D)

Breakfast at our hotel and depart for Galway. To reach our destination, we will enjoy a quick Ferry crossing from Tarbert to Killimer on Shannon Ferries (20 minutes). Continuing, we then visit the Cliffs of Moher - One of Ireland's most iconic sights; sheer cliffs soaring 214m above the waves on the wild west coast.

Walking the pathways along the 14km-long cliffs and gazing out at the wild Atlantic Ocean from the viewing platforms feels like experiencing the very essence of Ireland itself.

We continue our travel through the Burren famous for its Lunar-like Limestone landscape and its unique flora. About 20 species of Orchids grow wild here.

Late afternoon arrival in Galway for dinner and overnight at Menlo Park Hotel, Galway

Saturday, October 16, 2027

Galway

(B / L / -)

Breakfast and a full day tour of the circuit of Connemara – a tour loop of Connemara via Oughterard and Maam Cross. This landscape is a mixture of rivers, lakes, woodlands, rich meadowlands, rugged hills, dramatic mountains and as we near the coast we'll stumble across a stunning unpolluted coastline of sandy beaches and blue waters. During our tour, we will visit Connemara Abalone (Mungo Murphy's Seaweed Co.) Connemara Abalone is an aquaculture company in the west of Ireland that is 100% dedicated to the cultivation of abalone. The abalone are born and reared in a state-of-the art aquaculture farm on the austere rocky shoreline where the Atlantic Ocean meets Galway Bay. Here they specialize in growing the premium Japanese species known as Ezo. Abalone are a highly prized shellfish delicacy, especially now that they have become scarce in most countries around the world where they used to be plentiful.

Lunch at the Kylemore Cafe and visit Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden

The story of Kylemore – both Castle and Abbey – is a truly remarkable one. The twists of fate which its occupants experienced, from moments of romance and happiness to sadness and courage have all combined to create a fascinating history spanning over 150 years. Kylemore is home to a community of nuns of the Benedictine Order who came here in 1920 after their abbey in Ypres, Belgium was destroyed in World War I. Settling at Kylemore, the Benedictine Community opened a world-renowned boarding school for girls and began restoring the Abbey, Gothic Church and Victorian Walled Garden to their former glory.

Return to Galway for an open evening – maybe a walk along the promenade after dinner?

Sunday, October 17, 2027

Galway / Derry

(B / - / D)

Breakfast and check-out as we depart for Derry via Sligo. Our first visit today is to Barry Stephens Sheep, Suckler Cows and Potatoes, Galway – a family-run farm covering 350 hectares - 80 hectares of cereals (spring & winter barley + winter wheat), 25 hectares of potatoes. Potatoes are stored, packaged, weighed and graded on-farm, and sold to local supermarkets.

Livestock: 400 breeding ewes + lambs (around 700 in total at lambing time)

350 suckler cows + calves

All calves are fattened on the farm

Approximately 2000 bales of straw are sold to other farmers each year

We then continue to Sligo, famous for its dramatic landscapes, deep literary roots tied to poet W.B. Yeats, and rich ancient history. Time to explore and enjoy an independent lunch before we continue to Derry / Londonderry arriving late afternoon.

Dinner and overnight at Maldron Hotel Derry

Monday, October 18, 2027

Derry / Antrim / Belfast

(B / - / D)

Breakfast followed by a guided walking tour of the walls of Derry. Derry is the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland. The walls were built during the period 1613-1618 as defences for early 17th-century settlers from England and Scotland. The history of Derry city goes back to the 6th century.

We then visit the Tower Museum - The museum is located in Union Hall Place, within a historic tower just inside the city walls, near the Guildhall. The museum has two permanent exhibits; *The Story of Derry* which presents the history of Derry from its prehistoric origins to the present, and *An Armada Shipwreck – La Trinidad Valencera* which details the local shipwreck from the Spanish Armada. The

Spanish Armada exhibits were split between the Tower Museum and Ulster Museum in Belfast. The top of the museum has an open-air viewing facility, which provides views of the city centre and the River Foyle.

Continue along the Antrim coast

Here we visit the Giants Causeway - Renowned for its hexagonal columns of layered basalt, the Giant's Causeway is the only World Heritage site in Northern Ireland. Resulting from a volcanic eruption 60 million years ago, this is the focal point of a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has attracted visitors for centuries.

Our final arrival today in Belfast for dinner and overnight at the Clayton Hotel Belfast

Tuesday, October 19, 2027

Belfast

(B / - / -)

Breakfast and meet our local Step-On Guide for a Panoramic City Tour of Belfast covering breathtaking architecture and feats of engineering, including the renowned Queen's University, the giant H&W cranes, Titanic's birthplace and Cathedral Quarter and Queen's Quarter. The tour takes in the dark Crumlin Road Gaol and the world-famous Belfast murals on the republican Falls road and the loyalist Shankill Road. During our tour we will visit the Titanic Experience Belfast - Titanic Belfast extends over nine galleries, with multiple dimensions to the exhibition, drawing together special effects, dark rides, full-scale reconstructions and innovative interactive features to explore the Titanic story in a fresh and insightful way; from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her infamous maiden voyage and catastrophic demise. The journey goes beyond the aftermath of the sinking, to the discovery of the wreck and continues into the present day with a live undersea exploration centre

Balance of the afternoon and evening are open for individual exploration

Overnight

Wednesday, October 20, 2027

Belfast / Dublin

(B / - / D)

Breakfast our hotel and departure for Dublin. On arrival, meet with a Local Step-On Guide for a panoramic sightseeing tour of Dublin, including O'Connell Street, Phoenix Park, Leinster House, Ha'penny Bridge, Georgian Houses and Dublin Doors. Here we will enjoy a guided visit of Christ Church Cathedral - The cathedral was founded in the early 11th century under the Viking king Sitric Silkenbeard. It was rebuilt in stone in the late 12th century under the Norman potentate Strongbow, and considerably enlarged in the early 13th century, using Somerset stones and craftsmen. A partial collapse in the 16th century left it in poor shape and the building was extensively renovated and rebuilt in the late 19th century, giving it the form it has today, including the tower, flying buttresses, and distinctive covered footbridge.

Of course, what visit in Dublin would not be complete without a tasting at the Guinness Storehouse! The Storehouse was originally built in 1904 to house the Guinness fermentation process. The core of the building is modelled on a giant pint glass. The tour takes us step by step through the brewing process, finishing at the Gravity Bar where we will receive a complimentary pint of Guinness whilst enjoying the panoramic views over Dublin city.

Mid-afternoon is left open for sightseeing and shopping.

This evening we enjoy dinner and show (+ 1 drink per person) at The Merry Ploughboy

Overnight at Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane

Thursday, October 21, 2027

Dublin departure

(B)

Breakfast at our hotel. Independent transfers to the airport using the Dublin Express ticket include with the tour. You may also extend your stay in Ireland or Europe.

Tour costs:

Per person twin or double US \$4,795

Single supplement (limited to 2) US \$1,250

To ensure the quality of the tour, we are strictly limited to a minimum of 20 to a maximum of 30-travelers.

We welcome spouses or friends as long as one individual is an IAPAL Alumni

Services included in the package price

Return open Dublin Express arrival and departure transfers from/to the airport and city centre

2 nights x Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane Dublin on arrival (1) and on final night (2)

2 nights x Maldron Hotel Shandon Cork City

2 nights x The Dromhall Hotel Killarney

2 nights x Menlo Park Hotel Galway

1 night x Maldron Hotel Derry

2 nights x Clayton Hotel Belfast

Other included services / sites

Tour Leader Marie Hvidsten, Outstanding Leadership Program Director, 2015

10 x Irish Tour Manager for the duration of the tour

10 x Coach and Driver

Gratuities for drivers, local tour manager and step-on guides

10 x Full Irish Breakfast at the hotel

1 x Meet and greet reception with Dinner

5 x Dinners at Hotel

1 x Dinner and Show (+ 1 drink per person) - The Merry Ploughboy

1 x Visit - Rock of Cashel

1 x Sheep Farm visit - Dualla House Sheep Farm, Cashel, Tipperary

1 x Farm visit - Tim O'Leary Dairy Farm Cork

1 x Visit - Blarney Castle

1 x Lunch voucher for self service restaurant at Blarney Woollen Mills - Blarney Woollen Mills

1 x Visit + Tasting - Jameson Middleton Distillery Experience

1 x Farm visit - Glen South Farm

1 x Full day tour of the Ring of Kerry with a visit to the Kerry Woollen Mills

1 x Group lunch on the Ring of Kerry

1 x Ferry crossing: Tarbert to Killimer

1 x Visit - Cliffs of Moher and travel through the Burren

1 x Full day tour of the circuit of Connemara

1 x Farm visit - Connemara Abalone (Mungo Murphy's Seaweed Co.)

1 x Lunch at the Kylemore Cafe

1 x Visit - Kylemore Abbey & Victorian Walled Garden

1 x Farm visit - Barry Stephens Sheep, Suckler Cows and Potatoes, Galway

1 x Guided walking tour of the walls of Derry and entrance to the Tower Museum (guided)

1 x Visit - Giants Causeway

1 x Local Step-On Guide Belfast

1 x Visit - Titanic Experience Belfast

- 1 x Local Step-On Guide Dublin
- 1 x Guided visit - Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin
- 1 x Visit + Tasting - Guinness Storehouse

Not included:

UK eta / E-visa (mandatory) – GBP 20 (rate as of August 2026)*

Costs for individual passports

All items of a personal nature including (but not limited to) alcohol, laundry, independent tours

UK ETA* (official site: <https://www.gov.uk/eta>)

An electronic travel authorization (ETA) lets you travel to the UK for up to 6 months. Other websites may charge more to apply. Avoid websites that imitate government services.

Deposit Requirement:	\$750 US per person
Final payment due:	August 9, 2027

Cancellation penalties:	
From date of booking to May 3, 2027	\$250 per person
From May 4 to August 8, 2027	loss of deposit paid
From final payment date to departure	100% non-refundable

SPECIAL NOTE:

Should we be able to find a replacement from waitlists for a cancelled passenger or other requests received for the land tour between date of booking and 31-days prior to date of departure, a flat \$50.00 & HST p.p. administration charge will be accessed. Within 30-days of departure land tour is fully non-refundable.

Air Fare

Our tour is based on land-only. We are happy to assist you with booking your international flights or you can arrange for your travel independently. ***Our land tour includes arrival and departure transfers in Dublin using the Dublin Express airporter bus (not group transfers). MULTIPLE departures daily. If you do not want the transfer(s), you can deduct \$10 US per direction p.p.***

Meet: Marie Hvidsten, Tour Leader for this special Alumni Project



Marie Hvidsten retired from North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension in August 2021 where she was the Rural Leadership Specialist and Rural Leadership North Dakota Program Director for 19 years. Prior to her NDSU Extension position, Marie was the Corporate Learning & Development Manager at Digi-Key Corporation in Thief River Falls, MN, Curriculum Director for the Thief River Falls School System and a K-12 Music Teacher for the Plummer School System in Plummer, MN.

Marie is a lifelong learner whose mission in life is to help others become the best they can be. Marie enjoys gardening, especially flower gardening, reading, learning, and exploring nature.

Marie has been honored for her work as director of the North Dakota State University Extension Service's Rural Leadership North Dakota program and in 2015, was recognized with the Outstanding Leadership Program Director Award by IAPAL. During her tenure as the RLND Program Director, Marie led tour to Brazil, Costa Rico and Panama, Thailand and Vietnam, Chile and has participated in a recent project to Ghana and, in 2027, Japan.

Marie lives in Dilworth, MN, has five children, 12 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

WEB SITE: https://worldwide.on.ca/alumni2027
--

Exclusive reservations through:

Frederick Travel Waterloo

180 Northfield Drive West, Unit 4, Office 1002, Waterloo, ON N2L 0C7

CONTACT: Scott Allen, CTC or Kendra Allen

Phone (519) 745 – 1860 ext 303

Fax (519) 745 - 5694

Toll Free: (800) 578 – 8958

Cell: (519) 897 – 9673

e-mail: scotta@ftwaterloo.com or kendra@ftwaterloo.com